

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 01229 201200 Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 201101 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9144

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1229

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, OGEN, US, BG

SUBJECT: FY73 AID GRANT TO BANGLADESH

FOR LAINGEN NEA/ PAB AND AID/ ASIA FOR MACDONALD AND REES
FROM CHARGE

1. WITHIN NEXT WEEK I EXPECT RECEIVE APPOINTMENT TO
MAKE COURTESY CALL ON NEW BD FONMIN. QUITE LIKELY THAT
PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HAVE PRIMED FONMIN TO RAISE
SUBJECT OF FY73 GRANT.
2. WILL APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON (1) STATUS OF AUTHOR-
IZATION AND AMOUNT AS REQUESTED DACCA 1088, (2) ANY NEW THOUGHTS
DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE ON SCENARIO FOR SIGNING (3) WHETHER
WASHINGTON WISHES ME EXPLICITLY TO PRESS FOR RESPONSE ON USIS
RESTITUTION BILL IN CONTEXT OF GRANT.
3. ALTHOUGH BDG HAS LARGELY FULFILLED DESIDERATA SET
FORTH IN ORIGINAL SCENARIO (DACCA 5451), I NOTE THAT
THERE IS STILL ENOUGH TENDENCY AMONG AWAMI LEAGUE
ORATORS (ALBEIT NO LONGER AMONG CABINET MINISTERS) TO
PLAY SINO- AMERICAN CONSPIRACY THEME THAT WE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO SEEK CABINET- LEVEL PUBLIC ASSOCIATION WITH
GRANT SIGNATURE. NOW THAT MUJIB HAS TAKEN OVER PLANNING
MINISTRY HIMSELF AND TAJUDDIN IS OUT OF LINE OF COMMAND,
SUITABLE SCENARIO SHOULD BE EASIER FOR BDG TO WORK OUT.
4. INSOFAR AS CONTINUING RESOLUTION SITUATION PERMITS,
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PAGE 02 DACCA 01229 201200 Z

ITWOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND TIDIER TO PROCEED WITH
GRANT AT 45-50 MILLION DOLLAR LEVEL THAN TO BEGIN WITH
30 MILLION PIECEMEAL APPROACH.

5. USIS RESTITUTION QUESTION WOULD BETTER BE TREATED AS
SEPARATE ITEM WITH FONOFF DIRECTDJ GENERAL BUT I FORE-
SEE NO HARM IN LETTING LOWER LEVELS FOREIGN MINISTRY
KNOW THAT WASHINGTON IS UNLIKELY TO SPEED UP GRANT
AUTHORIZATION IF BDG SEEMS TO BE DRAGGING ITS FEET ON
SIMPLE PROCEDURAL CHORE OF GIVING US A WRITTEN IOU FOR
SOME 128 THOUSAND DOLLARS. AALTHOUGH THIS BDG OBLIGATION
DOES NOT SEEM TO BE DIRECTLY RELEVANT, WE ARE NOT
UNMINDFUL OF IMPERATIVES RECENTLY RESTATED IN STATE
048653. OUR PROBLEM IS NOT WITH FONOFF APPRECIATION
OF TOPIC ZSOBHAN' S INITIATIVE WAS REPORTED IN DACCA
0924) BUT RATHER TO GALVANIZE SOMEONE TO BELL THE CAT
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, WHERE TAJUDDIN STILL
PRESIDES.
NEWBERRY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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